

I am opposed to the proposal in RM-10809 that would delete Element 1 for Technician and General classes. To do so would eliminate the exposure of many of those applicants to the CW mode, resulting in an eventual significant decrease in the pool of CW operators. This would be bad for Amateur Radio as CW is a very valuable and useful mode. Many of the applicants who gain exposure to CW during the current liscense preperation and testing process will eventually become active in the CW mode, even though this trend has been decreased significantly since reduction of CW proficiency speeds from 20 and 13wpm to only 5 wpm. I support the part of the proposal that seeks to increase the rigor of the written elements for these 2 classes of liscense. The written elements are far too easy right now, and do not cause the applicants to possess any significant knowledge of theory, procedures, or regulations. I also support the elimination of same-session retesting and addition of 30 day increment minimum before a re-examination in case of failure. This will encourage better test preparation by the applicants instead of the current practice used by some that involves taking the test multiple times until they get lucky.